

United States Army
Battalion Commander
Robert L. Burgess

Lieutenant Colonel
2-305th Infantry Battalion
177th Armored Brigade
First Army Division East



Lieutenant Colonel Robert L. Burgess received an early commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Field Artillery from New Mexico Military Institute and served with 1st Battalion, 180th Field Artillery Battalion of Arizona Army National Guard. He served as a fire direction officer and platoon leader until he graduated from the University of Arizona with a Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering. His first assignment on active duty was in Germany where he served as a troop fire support officer in 1st Squadron, 1 Cavalry, and a paladin platoon leader and battalion S4 in 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery.

Following the Field Artillery Captain's Career Course, he was assigned to 18th Field Artillery Brigade (Airborne) where he commanded Bravo Battery, 1st Battalion, 377th Field Artillery (Air Assault) during the initial invasion of Iraq during OIF 1. Later, he commanded 2nd Howitzer Battery, 2nd Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment in Sadr City, Bagdad, Iraq. Upon Redeployment, he served as an observer controller and fires planner at the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, Louisiana.

Lieutenant Colonel Burgess attended the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and graduated from Central Michigan University with a Masters in Administration and Leadership. He then served as a National Police Transition Team Chief in Bagdad, under 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. He later served as the Battalion S3 for 3rd Battalion, 29th Field Artillery in Southern Iraq during the transition between Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn. He served as the Battalion Executive Officer after the battalion returned to Fort Carson, Colo. His latest assignment was to the Air Force Field Support Office for Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., where he served as the Deputy Director of Resource Management and Operations Support.

Lieutenant Colonel Burgess's Awards and Decorations include the Bronze Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters; Meritorious Service Medal (2 OLC); Army Commendation Medal (1 OLC); Army Achievement Medal (3 OLC); Presidential Unit Citation; Meritorious Unit Citation; National Defense Service Medal with Gold Star; Iraqi Campaign Medal with Silver Star; Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal; Global War on Terror Service Medal; Army Service Medal and the Overseas Service Medal. He also earned the Parachutist Badge and Air Assault Badge.